

experienced. In 1898 a flood came down the river and wiped out all their crops, swept away barns, houses and livestock. They also saw prairie fires destroy everything in its path. Fire destroyed his own home several years ago and he lost a wonderful collection of heirlooms, papers, and things handed down thru the generations.

He tells about a hired man that worked on his farm many years ago. For some reason the man had to prove his birth. Without reservation the man told that he was a "woods colt" and there was no record of his birth. In the early days "woods colts" may have been looked upon with varied feelings. Apparently there were some women who have given birth to an illegitimate child out in the woods to escape the horrors that society might shower down on them. Somehow the man's own acknowledgment and information was accepted as to date and place of birth.